

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. Claims 1, 15, 30, 101, 136-139, 141-153, 155-158, 205-208, 210-216 and 241-242 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 31, 45, 60-61, 75, 90, 116, 120, 131, 159-162, 164-176, 178-185, 187-199, 201-204, 217-220, 222-240 and 243-245 will be pending. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 31, 45, 60-61, 75, 90, 116, 120 and 131, and the claims depending from these claims, are allowable.

Objection to Drawings

The Office Action objects to drawings filed on November 29, 2000, noting the Draftperson's drawing review of November 8, 2002. Applicants traverse the objection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submitted formalized drawings to the official Draftsperson in a letter dated February 13, 2003, correcting the deficiencies noted in the Draftperson's drawing review of November 8, 2002. Therefore, the objection to the drawings is rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the formalized drawings filed on February 13, 2003, correcting the deficiencies noted in the Draftperson's drawing review, and indicate acceptance of the same.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 15, 30, 101, 136-139, 141-146, 148-150, 152-153, 155-157, 205-208, 210-212, 214-216 and 241-242 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,931,878 to Chapin Jr. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,170,742 to Yacoob, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,774 to Fulcher et al. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

While Applicants do not agree with the grounds of rejection advanced by the Examiner,

Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 15, 30, 101, 136-139, 141-146, 148-150, 152-153, 155-157, 205-208, 210-212, 214-216 and 241-242, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. These claims have been cancelled for economy of prosecution, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

The Office Action rejects claims 147, 151, 158 and 213 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapin Jr. in view of Yacoob, further in view of Fulcher et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,632 to Filepp et al. or U.S. Patent No. 6,188,398 to Collins-Rector et al. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

While Applicants do not agree with the grounds of rejection advanced by the Examiner, Applicants have cancelled claims 147, 151, 158 and 213, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. These claims have been cancelled for economy of prosecution, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

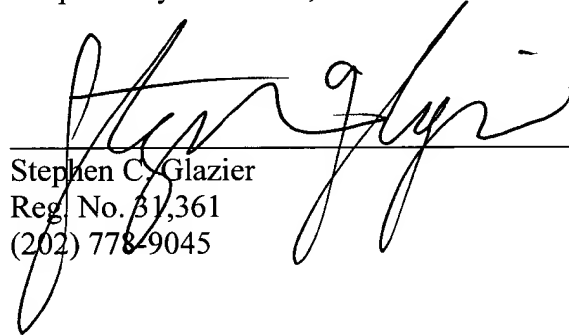
Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that this application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to address the Examiner's concerns. No fee is believed due at this time, but please apply any necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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